coaches have aesthetically appealing interiors and better passenger amenities. All Rajdhani/Shatabdi services with the older design of coaches are also planned to be converted to the upgraded design.

Indian Railways have also initiated steps for improving the standards of cleaning and hygiene through intensive Mechanised cleaning during maintenance in the depots & limited mechanized cleaning attention to identified trains at nominated "Clean Train Stations" during the scheduled halt.

An On Board Housekeeping Scheme has also been envisaged for important long distance trains, where frequent cleaning and hygiene attention shall be provided in the coaches on run.

Difficulties in direct movement of goods from India to Bangladesh

2134.SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the difficulties in direct movement of goods from any place in our country to any place in Bangladesh, without trans-shipment, on the railway network and how are they proposed to be overcome?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Transshipment in case of a part of India- Bangladesh goods traffic is resorted to because Bangladesh Railway predominantly accepts only vacuum-braked BCX rakes. On the other hand, Indian Railways fleet of BCX wagons is extremely limited because Indian Railways have moved on to air-braked BCN wagons. The limited fleet of BCX wagons can not service India-Bangladesh traffic from the hinterland over very long leads. Therefore, to meet the heavy demand, traffic from far off stations are carried in BCN wagons to the transshipment points situated close to the India-Bangladesh border. Goods are then transshipped into BCX wagons which are moved in circuits with shorter leads between transshipment points and destinations in Bangladesh.

Transshipment of goods can be avoided if Bangladesh Railway freely accepts air- braked stock from Indian Railways.

Agitation for passenger amenities at Shyamacharanpur

†2135. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there was an agitation in the month of last May demanding passenger amenities at Shyamacharanpur passenger halt in Dhenkanal district in Orissa under Eastern Coastal Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry has received any memorandum for the complete development of this passenger waiting room; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Dhenkanal Nagrik Manch intimated Khurda Road Division for a proposed rail roko on 14.05.2008

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

at Shyamacharanpur for development of the said passenger halt. They were requested to defer the rail roko and to have a detailed discussions on their demands. Accordingly, on 24.05.2008 a meeting with the members of Dhenkanal Nagrik Manch was held at Dhenkanal station.

The members demanded written commitment on the spot. Since the same was not possible Train No.209 UP Dhenkanal-Puri Passenger was detained at Shyamacharanpur halt from 07.00 hrs to 11.50 hrs on 24.05.2008. The second meeting was held on 05.08.2008 wherein their demands were discussed in detail. The details of their demands and action taken in this regard are given in the Statement

Statement

Passenger amenities at Shyamacharanpur

(a) to (d)

Sl.No.	Demands	Action Taken
1.	Upgradation of Shyamacharanpur passenger halt into full-fledged station.	The average number of passengers handled and earnings per day are 141 and Rs.1598/- respectively. As such, it is not justified to upgrade this halt station into a full-fledged station at present.
2.	Provision of high level platform.	Rail level platform has been raised to medium level.
3.	Stoppage of Intercity Express and all other Express Trains at this station.	Presently the average sale of tickets are 23 per day per train. Hence, it is not feasible to provide stoppage for any express train.
4.	Provision of platform shed.	The platform shelter of this station is 50 sq.m which is adequate for the present level of passenger traffic.
5.	Provision of waiting hall and lighting arrangements.	Waiting hall is planned for renovation to accommodate 100 passengers. 07 lights have been provided on platforms, which are adequate for the present level of passenger traffic.
6.	Issue of Monthly Season Ticket from this station.	There is no need for issue of Monthly Season Ticket from Shyamacharanpur Passenger Halt Station as passengers can avail the same from adjacent Dhenkanal station.
7.	Provision of cycle stand at this station.	Provision of cycle stand at this station is not justified at present due to meagre number of passengers.